(b) the reasons for decline in exports of both tea and rice to the Middle East countries;

(c) the steps being taken to improve exports of these items to Middle East countries;

(d) what are the factors leading to increased exports of tea and rice from the neighbouring countries to the Middle East whereas the Indian exports have gone down;

(e) what will be the position of Indian tea and rice exports to the Middle East countries this year in terms of quantity and value; and

(f) which are the countries where sale improvement is expected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Country-wise export figures of tea and rice in terms of quantity and value during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 are enclosed [*See* Appendix CXLII Annexure No. 74]

(b) There is slight decline in export of tea to Middle East countries due to lack of sustained demand on account of decline in oil prices and lower prices offered by some of the producing countries. Overall requirement of rice in the Middle East has declined due to repatriation of migrant labour.

(c) The Government is taking steps to improve the exports of Indian tea in general through various fiscal incentives and promotional measures. A pilot project for uninational-*cum*-brand-promotion of Indian value-added teas with an outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs has been launched in ARE.

A scheme for authorising the exporters of basmati rice in consumer packs to spend a certain percentage of their F.O.B. earnings in foreign exchange is being worked out.

(d) The reasons for increased export of tea from other countries is mainly due to their low prices as compared to our prices.

In the case of basmati rice exports, Pakistan has advantages of account of uniform quality of the product and a single selling agency having flexibility in fixing export prices.

(e) and (f) It is difficult to forecast the export prospects precisely. Exports will depend on the international trading environment.

Daily wages workers in TFAI

*275. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily rated employees on rolls of the Trade Fair Authority of India and how many of them have been working for more than two years and have also completed more than 240 working days so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that they went on a strike on the 21st January, 1987 to press their demand for regularisation;

(c) whether many out of them and also from the regular ones have been removed from service;

(d) how many of the employees so removed belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(e) what is the policy regarding application of Fourth Pay Commission recommendations to the lower staff in the TFAI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The number of daily wage employees engaged by TFAI as on 10th April, 1987

was 294, out of whom 154 have worked for more than two years and have also completed more than 240 working days.

(b) Some employees of TFAI went on strike on 21st January, 1987.

(c) 12 regular employees have been removed from service for serious acts of indiscipline under the TFAI Employees' Conduct Rules. The number of daily wage staff varies from time to time depending upon the workload.

(d) Out of 12 persons removed from service, 6 belong to Scheduled Castes.

(e) As the TFAI is a Public Sector Undertaking, the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations are not applicable to its employees.

Financial assistance for cooperative spinning mills in Karnataka

*276. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government of Karnataka have urged the Central Government to provide financial assistance to some of the cooperative spinning mills in the State;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The Karnataka Government had requested the Union Government to take up with the Industrial Development Bank of India to consider the loan applications of certain cooperative spinning mills in the State.

(b) and (c) The financial institutions feel that adequate spinning capacity already exists in the country and that new spinning units capital cost wise, would not be a viable proposition.

Deployment of spy planes by the U.S.A.

*277. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the move of US Government to deploy spy planes which can evade detection by radar in all parts of the world;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to safeguard Indian air space?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Government are aware that US armed forces utilise several types of reconaissance aircraft in different parts of the world;

(b) Government expect all countries to respect the fundamental principles of international law relating to sovereignty and territorial integrity, including the inviolability of national air space of other countries;

(c) Government are alert to developments having a bearing on India's security. Hon'ble members will understand that to divulge the precise measures is deterimental to national security.

Curbing of smuggling on Indo-Bangladesh border

*278. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached with the Government of Bangladesh to keep a vigil on the border to curb illegal entry and smuggling which is affecting the economy of both the countries; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to effectively implement the agreement?